

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to FIG. 2. The Replacement Sheet replaces the original sheet containing FIG. 2. FIG. 2 has been amended to change cross sectional view line "A-A" to "4-4" and cross sectional view line "B" to "3".

Attachment: One (1) Replacement Sheet - Amended FIG. 2

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully acknowledges receipt of the Office Action mailed March 22, 2006.

In the Office Action, the Examiner: (1) objected to the drawings; (2) objected to the specification, including the title, the abstract, and the disclosure; (3) objected to claims 6-28 under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(c); (4) rejected claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2; and (5) indicated claims 1-5 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2.

By this Amendment, Applicant amends FIG. 2; the specification, including the title, the abstract, and the disclosure; and claims 1-28 to improve form and better define the claimed invention. Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1-28 will remain pending. Of these claims, claim 1 is independent.

The originally-filed specification, claims, abstract, and drawings fully support the amendments to FIG. 2; the specification, including the title, the abstract, and the disclosure; and claims 1-28. No new matter has been introduced.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claims 1-5. Consequently, Applicant has amended claims 1-5 to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2. Accordingly, independent claim 1 is in condition for allowance. In addition, claims 2-28 are in condition for allowance at least due to their dependence from independent claim 1.

Applicant traverses the objections and rejections above and respectfully requests reconsideration for at least the reasons set forth below.

I. OBJECTION TO THE DRAWINGS

The Examiner's objection to the drawings has been rendered moot in view of the amendments to FIG. 2. Specifically, Applicant has amended FIG. 2 to change cross sectional view line "A-A" to "4-4" and cross sectional view line "B" to "3".

Applicant requests that the replacement sheet be made of official record in the above-identified patent application. If the drawing for any reason is not in full compliance with the pertinent statutes and regulations, please advise the undersigned.

II. OBJECTIONS TO THE SPECIFICATION

The Examiner's objections to the specification have been rendered moot in view of the amendments to the title, the abstract, and the disclosure. Applicant therefore requests that the objections to specification be withdrawn.

III. OBJECTION TO THE CLAIMS UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(c)

The Examiner's objection to claims 6-28 under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(c) has been rendered moot in view of the amendments to claims 6-8, 10, 11, 14-18, 20, 21, 24, 25, and 28. Applicant therefore requests that the objection to claims 6-28 under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(c) be withdrawn.

IV. 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2 REJECTION

The Examiner's rejection of claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2, has been rendered moot in view of the amendments to claims 1-5. Applicant therefore requests that the rejection of claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2, be withdrawn.

V. CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 1 is in condition for allowance. In addition, claims 2-28 are in condition for allowance at least due to their dependence from claim 1.

The Office Action contains characterizations of the claims and the related art with which Applicant does not necessarily agree. Unless expressly noted otherwise, Applicant declines to subscribe to any statement or characterization in the Office Action.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: July 24, 2006

By: /David W. Hill/
David W. Hill
Reg. No. 28,220

Attachments: One (1) Replacement Abstract; and
One (1) Replacement Sheet - Amended FIG. 2